ED LINENTHAL: How would I describe Walter in a few words? Kind, thoughtful, creative.

BOB KERREY: Generous. Humble. Smart.

HENRY T. YANG: He's definitely a scholar, a humanitarian.

BOB KERREY: A great friend. A person you want to be able to call when things aren't going quite right and ask for help.

RALPH LEWIN: The first word that comes to mind is playful. He just had this playfulness about him, this mischievous side to him that was hilarious.

JIM QUAY: There was just a light around Walter that I think almost everybody felt and recognized. You just felt there was a certain glow about him.

TIM KRING: Unassuming, comes to mind. There was, of course, this mountain of an intellect.

ALESSANDRO DURANTI: He was obviously a very charismatic teacher, a very successful and unusual lecturer.

RICHARD HECHT: There was this openness to his charisma that invited people to feel as if they had known him their entire lives.

JIM QUAY: He was just always thinking of what's the other person feeling.

TOMOKO MASUZAWA: He was trustworthy. He was upright. And at the same time, uncontrollably jovial.

SARAH MCFARLAND TAYLOR: He really walked the talk of the ethics and values that we studied with him.

JULIE INGERSOLL: He was generous with his time, generous with his attitude and his openness.

HENRY T. YANG: He's a man who took things very, very seriously, but yet he also had a great sense of humor.

SARAH MCFARLAND TAYLOR: He just had a very beautiful soul. He was just an incredibly lovely, good person.

NARRATOR: In the hearts of students and longtime residents of Santa Barbara, California, and across the United States and beyond, lies an enduring legacy of inspiration, storytelling, and empathy, one that nurtures engagement, tolerance, and respect for the views of others, encourages civil dialogue and appreciation for cultural and religious difference, and bridges the gap between academia and public life.

This is the story of Walter Capps and the Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life.

WALTER CAPPS: Sometimes, the most profound truth comes through voices that we are not accustomed to hearing.

I realized as the class unfolded that this was part of their therapy. This was the time for welcome home.

Democracy is born in conversation.

Human beings are human first.

We must find the higher ground by rediscovering the common ground.

That which links us as human beings is much more compelling than that which divides us.

[THEME MUSIC]

NARRATOR: Walter Holden Capps was born on May 5, 1934, in Omaha, Nebraska, in the midst of the Great Depression. Walter had humble beginnings. His father worked for the Union Pacific Railroad, and together with his mother, they raised four sons. It was Walter's family who instilled in him the values of empathy, kindness, and community.

With no formal education of their own, putting all four boys through college was a lifelong achievement. Walter was the eldest son, and originally aspired to become a preacher in his Swedish Lutheran Protestant tradition. He earned a Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in 1958 from Portland State College. That year, he met his wife, Lois Grimsrud, a nursing instructor.

After a period at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California, he then earned a Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.) degree in 1960 from Augustana Theological Seminary in Rock Island, Illinois. However, while preparing for the ministry, his trajectory changed. He realized he could really think, he loved to study, and he felt pulled toward a different goal, one of becoming a scholar of religion.

LOIS CAPPS: We married in Montana, where my family lived at that time, and put everything we owned on top of our old pink Buick and drove across country, sight unseen, to New Haven, Connecticut, to start our married life.

NARRATOR: Both Walter and Lois continued their academic journeys on the East Coast, where Walter earned a Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.) in 1961 from Yale Divinity School, and both an M.A. in 1963 and a Ph.D. in 1965 in Religion from Yale University.

LOIS CAPPS: He came home so excited. He said, "Lois, there's a school in California that's just beginning their Department of Religious Studies, and it's a state school." And that had been his dream.

NARRATOR: In 1964, Walter and Lois journeyed west, where Walter began his career as a Professor of Religious Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He was the second full-time faculty member hired in this new department. Lois was already seven months pregnant when they arrived, and over the next decade, they had three children: Lisa, Todd, and Laura.

LOIS CAPPS: The university was very young then, and so was the department when we came, and we all grew up together.

LAURA CAPPS: He was tremendously supportive as a dad, just kind of my biggest fan.

LOIS CAPPS: You could always count on him at a swim meet to time meets and various things.

LAURA CAPPS: He just liked to have so much fun. He liked to kid around, he liked to tell jokes, he liked to giggle together.

LOIS CAPPS: He was the instigator of a lot of projects.

LAURA CAPPS: He loved cars. Washing his cars, waxing the cars.

LOIS CAPPS: If there was anything other than his work life, it was always his family. It was always family for him and for me too. We had an open house pretty much. Students would come over, and he loved to play the piano and entertain.

LAURA CAPPS: These sort of scholars would be around the dinner table, but then again, it would quickly kind of get jovial and silly. He would either tell jokes or bring out the tuba.

TIM KRING: I went to his house a couple of times with small little groups of students. Was always welcome there. There was always a big dog, I remember.

JULIE INGERSOLL: It was just a beautiful place to be. It's a gorgeous house, and I think so many of us have fond memories of the garage office with all the books, and Walter out there working at his desk.

SARAH MCFARLAND TAYLOR: He and Lois and the entire family created this beautiful space in their home, where we were able to develop these kind of connections and relationships and trust and care.

ED LINENTHAL: Going over to the Capps' home, it was just like the best day. The entire atmosphere was this gentle, warm, kind.

TOMOKO MASUZAWA: It was not contrived. It's not like he was trying to be friendly. It was who he was and who his family were.

NARRATOR: Walter Capps was a pioneer in the field of religious studies, and his path-breaking scholarship helped define the interdisciplinary range of the field. He published books and articles on Christian theology, particularly the theology of hope, as well as on Christian mysticism. He co-edited two books on the psychology of religion with his brother Donald Capps, also a renowned scholar of religion. His magnum opus, *Religious Studies: The Making of a Discipline,* was one of the first full-scale introductions to the history, theories, and methods of religious studies, and remains a foundational text in the field today.

[THEME MUSIC]

RICHARD HECHT: When Walter came here in 1964, he was very much influenced by theology. But by the middle of the 1990s, when he published *Religious Studies: The Making of a Discipline,* he really had broadened his perspective to include almost every possible way of doing the study of religion.

SARAH MCFARLAND TAYLOR: All of us that have Ph.D. programs that deal with theory and method, everyone reads Walter's book.

GREG JOHNSON: He shaped the story of our discipline as much as anybody I can think of. From those modest beginnings of just several faculty, he and the others built what's arguably the greatest public university program in the study of religion in North America. He became sort of the historian of our field. What are the different trajectories of the field, how have they matured in a variety of ways. The way that story gets told is still very much in his voice.

JULIE INGERSOLL: What he taught was this scholarly empathy that took paths all over the place.

SARAH MCFARLAND TAYLOR: His work has really held up, even though much of that work was done in the 1970s. It's more important than ever.

NARRATOR: Beyond research, Walter was also busy shaping the minds of his students, as well as his colleagues, who were deeply impacted by his teaching and mentorship, as well as raising his family. In addition, he became well known in local religious communities. He was the first non-Catholic person to join the Board of Directors at La Casa de Maria, a spiritual retreat center in Santa Barbara affiliated with the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart.

Walter maintained his involvement with the center for more than three decades.

RICHARD HECHT: One of the things that I thought was so fantastic about Walter as a teacher was that he always gave young people opportunities to enter into discussion.

TIM KRING: As a teacher, he had a Socratic kind of quality to him. It was never presented as just him imparting information to you.

JULIE INGERSOLL: It wasn't so much that he taught a subject. It was more he taught a way of being in the world. The way that he taught was he let you ask a question, and then he would sit there and wait for you to come up with an answer. He was a lot more interested in what other people had to say than he was in speaking himself.

KATYA ARMISTEAD: I am a woman of color, biracial, first generation, from a low-income, single-parent household from southern California. And I came to UCSB completely shell-shocked being on this campus, a predominantly white campus where I did not feel like I belonged. I struggled academically, and his classroom was the first classroom, even though it was in Campbell Hall, over 800 people were in the class, but I felt seen for the first time.

NARRATOR: During the late 1960s and early 1970s, the Vietnam War was in full swing and in the forefront of the daily news. Veterans were coming home damaged and shell-shocked to a fractured nation, lacking support systems, and an understanding community. Walter became particularly concerned about the effects of the war, and his research and teaching steadily moved in the direction of the role of ethics in contemporary American life.

RALPH LEWIN: Where I grew up, we didn't talk about the Vietnam War, but you knew as a kid that it impacted everything. You saw it in the 4th of July neighborhood party, where someone would have too much to drink and explode in some ways, or the uneasy silence that you'd see around your friend's dinner table.

SHAD MESHAD: In the late '60s and '70s for us coming home, I mean, things that we did and saw, we didn't want to talk about. So it was tough to bridge that gap with family members, with parents, with girlfriends, boyfriends, or whatever, to a level where you can at least feel accepted and know that your partner, your son, your girlfriend, or whatever has a little idea of why you're different. Because everybody that's in war comes back different. They may not show it on the outside, but inside, you have changed. It was harder for me to land back from Vietnam than flying into Vietnam, if you can believe it.

[SOFT MUSIC]

NARRATOR: At the same time, Walter had become involved in the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, an influential think tank of intellectuals and scholars who hosted discussions on social issues and hoped to influence public policy. Founded by Robert M. Hutchins in 1959, the center was a part of UCSB from 1977 to 1987, and Walter served as its director twice during those years.

In 1977, Walter hosted a dialogue session at the center focused on how the Vietnam War affected American sensibilities, religion, and values. Of all the participants, only two veterans, Shad Meshad and Fred Downs, were among them. Walter had invited them.

JIM QUAY: Well, my understanding from Walter is that he was the Program Director at the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, and they were going to do a final seminar on the Vietnam War. They had done many while the war was going on. Scholars and policy people would come together and debate or talk about the war. And Walter was looking down, he told me, over the list of people who were going to be attending, and realized that not one of them had ever been in Vietnam, and certainly there weren't any veterans. And he decided that that was a missing voice that he wanted in this program and in this seminar.

SHAD MESHAD: Walter called Washington, and they referred myself and a severely disabled war veteran, Fred Downs, who had just published a book called *The Killing Zone.*

LOIS CAPPS: I was invited to sit in the back that day, and they had this big table where scholars would sit around the table, and there were two veterans who came.

JIM QUAY: For most of the first day, they didn't say a word. And at the break, Walter said, "Please speak up." And they said, "We can't talk about the Vietnam War this way." And Walter said, "Talk about it the way you can talk about it."

LOIS CAPPS: They weren't used to scholarly language, and they had come back, as so many did, raw from what they saw and experienced in Vietnam.

SHAD MESHAD: Fred and I looked at each other, and he says, "Who wants to go first?" And Fred says, "I'll go first." He had had his shoulder blown off in Vietnam. He had this prosthetic chrome arm and hand, and he cocked his arm and drilled it into this million-dollar table.

LOIS CAPPS: Splintering part of it.

SHAD MESHAD: And buried it and said, "Now, let's talk about the war."

JIM QUAY: And it just poured out of him.

LOIS CAPPS: And they proceeded in very different language to tell what it was like for a young kid, barely out of their teens, to go over there and serve, thrust into something they had no preparation for.

SHAD MESHAD: We just wanted to make sure that it wasn't this commercial that you see on TV, with the dress blues and the silver and slicing a dragon. It is so bullshit. It is nothing like that. The first round that goes over your head, you're wetting your pants, and you're praying for your mother. We told it like it was.

JIM QUAY: And Walter said he knew at that moment that the war was far from over, and wasn't going to be wrapped up in some academic seminar. And I think that was the beginning of the class right there in that moment.

SHAD MESHAD: And after that, we became extremely close friends, and he would invite me up every month. I stayed with the kids. And we would talk. And I mean, the dialogue kept going. It was just Walter and I, and he was getting this idea that we need to teach. This needs to be taught. There needs to be a voice for veterans.

[THEME MUSIC]

NARRATOR: As a result of that dialogue session, Walter created a course at UCSB called The Impact of the Vietnam War on American Religion and Culture, first taught in 1979.

WALTER CAPPS: Hello, I'm Walter Capps, I'm a professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara, and I'm standing on our campus in front of Campbell Hall, one of our main lecture buildings, where we teach a course on the impact of the Vietnam War.

NARRATOR: The course was about bringing people who had experienced the war directly, who knew the pain of being a soldier or a nurse on the front lines, of killing and watching your friends be killed, of coming home changed and alienated, or of being a conscientious objector, and letting these people speak to students about their experiences and about living with moral decisions that had serious social and psychological consequences. It was about welcoming people home from war and bringing people together.

CHARLIE PLUMB: You should have seen me that day, the day I was shot down. I'm flying an F-4B Phantom jet. At the time, it was the hottest thing in the world. I'd flown 74 combat missions, over 100 carrier landings, pretty well-seasoned fighter pilot by that time. Truly, the epitome of the top gun. My co-pilot and I were blown out of the sky, exploded some 12,000 pounds of jet fuel, and that F-4 Phantom came tumbling. I ejected, he ejected, our parachutes opened, and we came floating down over enemy territory.

I hit the ground, captured immediately, stripped of everything I had, paraded around in a blindfold, beaten up pretty severely, and put in this little cell. It was 8 feet long and 8 feet wide.

RICHARD HECHT: The student impact was extraordinary. They were hearing something that wasn't like some dry textbook. They were hearing about the lives of people.

NARRATOR: Through the Vietnam class, Walter facilitated a conversation that people hungered for, but that wasn't happening before his class. For many Vietnam War veterans, this course provided the first opportunity to tell their stories.

SHAD MESHAD: Probably the most traumatic evening of my life. My first night on duty as the administrative officer. After, quote, 1900 hours, which is 7:00 PM, a new junior officer would have to take over the hospital. And I'll never forget. It was my third week in country, and I had to sit and wait in case there were mass casualties, because the war was fought in darkness. It was fought at night for the most part.

And all of a sudden, I'll never forget the noise. It's just this [DEMONSTRATING]. It just got louder and louder and louder. I'll never forget that. And boom! There's just bodies stacked like a wild shopping spree, like you see tables of clothes there were bodies, uniforms, no uniforms, body parts. And they were taking the gurneys and dumping them like you do cement or bricks onto the floor right in front of triage. And our job was to start diving in and sorting through the bodies. And they kept coming.

WALTER CAPPS: It became known throughout the community that this was a good place to come, if you were sort of coming out of the Vietnam experience. So veterans started attending the class, sitting together up in the front row. And I wasn't, I didn't have any designs on the veterans. I realized as the class unfolded that this was part of their therapy. This was the time for welcome home.

SHAD MESHAD: It was life-changing. It set so many of those on stage, the veterans, free. That they were able to open up their wounds, their hearts, their experience. And of all people, 19-, 20-year-olds are listening to our story and welcoming us home. If you were raised Catholic, it was like going to confession and telling these horror stories or whatever.

And their absolution came in the tears and the applause and the embraces that happened when you walked off stage, and realizing that even your parents and your wife had never heard these stories, and you did it in this magical place, this sacred place, I call it today, that stage where I did so many presentations about the experience.

JIM QUAY: When Walter asked me to come, I think it was in March of 1985, to his class, it was the first time I'd ever put my story together of how I came from being someone in a moderate Republican family to a conscientious objector against the war in Vietnam. It was fulfilling for me and energizing for me in many ways, in both realizing my story might mean something to somebody else, and also that there was a kinship with the veterans, and that we were not opponents as we had been during the war, but actually allies.

RALPH LEWIN: I've been talking with other people who had taken the class, and their experience is similar. It changed their life. I think it helped us understand this thing that really shaped who we were as individuals, and profoundly shaped the country and world in which we lived.

SHAD MESHAD: So many of these students were going a different course until that class and decided to go into either religious studies or politics, or something like that. They were fired up to do something.

NARRATOR: In 1987, Walter invited Bob Kerrey to co-teach the Vietnam course.

BOB KERREY: He just essentially barged into my office, said, "Hi, I'm Walter Capps." And it didn't take long before I liked him.

NARRATOR: Kerrey had served in the Vietnam War as a United States Navy SEAL. Severely wounded, he was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism in combat.

BOB KERREY: I fought in the war in Vietnam, and then I came home and patched myself up as best I could. And I'd never really thought about national issues that much.

NARRATOR: Kerrey served as the 35th governor of Nebraska from 1983 to 1987, and as a United States Senator from 1989 to 2001.

BOB KERREY: I think it's not likely I would have ever been a U.S. Senator. I wouldn't have run. I wouldn't have been a candidate. And after doing this class, I did. I saw the connection between what was going on at home and the laws of Congress. And most importantly, perhaps, I saw mistakes. In the case of war, if you make a mistake, somebody's going to pay a terrible price for it. So I would say that contributed to me saying, I think I can do this.

NARRATOR: Other famous speakers who graced the stage at Campbell Hall included Senator George McGovern, Senator Eugene McCarthy, Senator Gary Hart, naval aviator Charlie Plumb, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Chairman Jack Wheeler, Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund Founder Jan Scruggs, decorated Vietnam veteran Lewis B. Puller, Jr., and National Veterans Outreach Program Co-Founder William Mahedy. The course regularly drew over 900 undergraduate students, often filling Campbell Hall, UCSB's largest lecture hall, beyond its capacity. It was also among the first televised courses to be transmitted by satellite.

WALTER CAPPS: I'm Walter Capps of the University of California at Santa Barbara, and this is one in a series of discussions, continuing discussions of the impact of the Vietnam War on American culture. Today, we're reporting from the Harriman Center in Washington, D.C. My guest in the studio today is Frederick Downs, Jr.

FREDERICK DOWNS, JR: In 1987, I was given the opportunity to return to Vietnam to meet with the North Vietnamese to address their humanitarian concerns. I'm walking around the Lake of the Restored Sword, which is a big lake in the middle of Hanoi, next to the government guesthouse. A man came by. He was walking by, and he was pushing his bicycle. And sitting on the bicycle seat was about a 5-year-old boy.

And this man and this child were smiling at each other, just having the most wonderful time in the world. The most basic thing happened to me. All of a sudden, I realized these were human beings. To kill another man, you have to dehumanize them. And during a war, it's easy to generate hatred against them, because you say, they committed atrocities and it's easy to-- they don't believe in human life. They're not human beings. So bang, you kill 'em.

Seeing that father with his little boy made me recognize that these were human beings, and therefore, I have been dehumanizing them all these years.

WALTER CAPPS: And you hadn't seen them as human beings before.

FREDERICK DOWNS, JR: I'd never seen 'em. That to me was--

WALTER CAPPS: That was a big turning point then.

FREDERICK DOWNS, JR: It was a big, big turning point for me.

NARRATOR: Over a period of nearly two decades, more than 10,000 students would take the course.

STUDENT: Every time I'd walk out of here, either in tears or just in awe, just so overwhelmed. And it's just such a strong feeling to come into this class.

WALTER CAPPS: We all know by now that war is about geography, about national claims, competing national claims. It's about guns and planes and land and politics. But it's, most of all, about human beings. It's most of all about human life. So I am deeply grateful, as we start this session, to all of you students who invited your family members, your fathers primarily, to come, and I'm deeply grateful to the fathers who are here. And let's welcome everybody. Some of these gentlemen up here have not yet been welcomed home.

[APPLAUSE]

NARRATOR: The Vietnam course also inspired two of Walter's books, *The Unfinished War* and *The Vietnam Reader.* In 1985, the course was profiled in a major Los Angeles Times article, and in 1987, it gained national attention when it was featured in an episode of CBS's *60 Minutes* program in a segment called "Vietnam 101."

ED BRADLEY: In 1979, the University of California at Santa Barbara offered its first course, and there were only 40 students enrolled. When we visited the campus in 1987, it had become the most popular course on campus.

LAURA CAPPS: When his class was featured on *60 Minutes,* that stood out to me of-- okay, this is unusual, and I was extremely proud.

SHAD MESHAD: The publicity it got. Number 1 class for almost 20 years on the Vietnam War in the country. Walter almost became a celebrity, but in reality, he was just this magician. He just knew, like a great chef, how to make this great dish. And the dish was sharing our story and bringing the world to it through this university.

VETERAN: It took 17 and 1/2 years for me to talk about Vietnam. Two marriages, suicide attempts, drug overdoses, abuse of alcohol, list goes on.

ED BRADLEY: Twice a week, these young men and women are given a crash course on the horrors of Vietnam and the traumatic return home for the men and women who served there. Veterans who live in the area sit on the stage, and many of them get up to tell of their experiences.

VETERAN: While I was over there killing from the air, it was easy. It was commonplace. When I was on the ground, and had to kill a 10- or 12-year-old kid, that wasn't.

STUDENT: Before I took this class, I didn't know anything about Vietnam. I had a special interest. My father went to Vietnam, and he didn't come back.

VETERAN: There's 58,372 people killed. 223 million Americans don't know why. There's over 100,000 suicides of Vietnam vets. Plus one. Three days ago, one of my friends, that's for you, Terry, wherever you are, you're listening. Finally, I thank God for my brothers and sisters, I thank God for the Vietnam Veterans of America, and I thank you for listening and caring.

[APPLAUSE]

NARRATOR: Walter's class became part of healing our nation.

[APPLAUSE]

Walter was among the leaders of a nationwide effort to establish Vietnam veterans' centers in every major city of the United States. He traveled with students and veterans to the opening of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in 1982.

WALTER CAPPS: This is the kind of experience that settles in the human soul and the human spirit.

NARRATOR: To the Soviet Union in 1988. And to Vietnam in 1991. In 1982, Walter developed another popular course, Religion and Politics in America Today, initially co-taught with George McGovern. The course featured an array of notable politicians and political activists, including Eugene McCarthy, California Governor Jerry Brown, Moral Majority Co-Founder Paul Weyrich, conservative commentator Cal Thomas, and liberal commentator Bill Moyers.

It enrolled over 500 students in its first year, and captured the attention of local news and the Santa Barbara community, many of whom audited the course. Among other themes, the course explored the rise of the new Religious Right, about which Walter published a book.

WALTER CAPPS: What we're looking for in this country is a kind of generosity, a generosity of spirit, that allows people of all faiths, of all colors, of all cultures, of all ethnic backgrounds to feel at home here. To live in peace and in harmony and with a cooperative spirit with one another. And I think my objection to the new Religious Right is that it has functioned more as a divisive force within the society than as an inclusive force. You mentioned earlier that I teach a course on the Vietnam War. The lesson from the Vietnam War is that this country needs healing right now.

NARRATOR: Walter often said, "We are human first." Before we are members of a nation, a political party, a religion, a race, or some other category, we are first human beings. Walter aspired to live by this deep and abiding moral principle, inspired by the Danish philosopher N. F. S. Grundtvig. It was one of his favorites, and he often shared it with his students or anyone who would listen. He believed this principle could help people recognize our common humanity, help forge shared values, and foster kindness and compassion, even where people strongly disagree.

WALTER CAPPS: Grundtvig said that we are human beings first of all, before we are anything else. Now, see, Grundtvig grows up in Copenhagen, Denmark, and Grundtvig is a member of the church. So he's a Christian. He's also a Dane. He's also a male. He's also a father. He's a grandfather. He's all of these things.

But when you see Grundtvig walking down the street, do you say, there goes grandpa? Or do you say, there goes the bishop? Or do you say, he must be a Dane? No, Grundtvig says, yeah, all that would be true, but what you want to do, first of all, is say, there walks a man who is a human being. All of us are linked to each other by virtue of the fact that we are human beings. And if we ever take a secondary characteristic, as necessary as those are, put a secondary characteristic in place of that primary definition, then we have dehumanized the person to that extent.

I think I probably believe in this more than any other principle. Before we are American and they are Vietnamese, and they are Iraqi or they are Russian or whatever they are, they are human beings. Before we're Democrats, Republicans, independents, whatever, we are human beings.

That which links us as human beings is much more compelling than that which divides us.

NARRATOR: In 1988, Walter introduced a new course, Voices of the Stranger, its title inspired by the 20th-century monk Thomas Merton, who said that truth comes most profoundly from a person from whom one does not expect to receive the truth.

WALTER CAPPS: Sometimes the most profound truth comes through voices that we are not accustomed to hearing. In fact, the emphasis of this class is upon voices that are not always heard, not the voices that are the most prominent voices in the society. That hearing is done with more than the ear. It's also done with the heart, with the human spirit.

NARRATOR: The goal of the course was to introduce students to ethnic and cultural diversity, and to understand the experiences of oppressed and excluded minorities in the United States. Like the Vietnam course, it relied on guest speakers to share their experiences with students. They spoke on topics such as race, sexuality, gender, AIDS, physical and mental disabilities, drug addiction, homelessness, incarceration, and immigration.

Students learned empathy and appreciation for diversity. Voices of the Stranger began filling Campbell Hall to capacity in its third year. It was also broadcast on local cable television.

NANCY MCCRADIE: Take a woman with two children who's been wandering from place to place, from hotel room to hotel room, to people's living room floors.

STEVE HERRON: And I found that the attitudes that I had to deal with varied greatly. One of the most common reactions that I would get would be the silent stare, or to be ignored, more or less.

RUTH GIM: I'd like to talk specifically about some of the myths about Asian Americans.

KEN FORAKER: I was in a lot of pain. I didn't know I had lost my leg, but I knew that I had a big recovery ahead of me.

BILL WHITE: AIDS is a chronic condition. It is not a fatal disease.

SAMANTHA: I went out with a bunch of friends partying, and I went back to my room with one of the guys and passed out, and woke up to him raping me.

DAVID: I'm David, and I'm 20 years old. I'm a sophomore at UCSB, and I have been deaf all my life.

WALTER CAPPS: This class has been about diversity, marginality, how we as individuals discover our own voices. It teaches us that no two human beings are the same, and that our society consists of this diversity. I would like to add to that that diversity is a great plus.

KATYA ARMISTEAD: Dr. Capps was clear in his desire to hear people's stories, to welcome people, to tell them that they belong. I heard him talk about their experience with care and kindness and acceptance. I loved that course.

RICHARD HECHT: You had people who were Latinos, you had people who were African Americans, you had every kind of person who might be marginalized in our society, as if he's looking at issues of diversity but it was in the late 1980s and early 1990s. So those classes, I believe, were very prescient about issues in America that Walter sensed long before other people had seen their significance and importance.

NARRATOR: Walter was a beloved professor, winning several campus teaching awards, and tens of thousands of students took his courses. He also mentored many graduate students, several of whom became influential scholars of religion in their own right.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Walter's sustained contributions to the humanities in California and nationally earned him praise as one of our nation's most distinguished humanists. He was Chairman of the California Council for the Humanities and President of the National Federation of State Humanities Councils. For nearly a decade, he led Summer Institutes funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities for high school and college teachers on issues related to religion and public life in America.

RALPH LEWIN: The kinds of questions that Walter asked, both of academia and then of the public, really forced a reckoning of how do the humanities exist outside of the ivory tower, or maybe better put, how can the ivory tower and the broader community engage in meaningful conversations rooted in the humanities?

And I think it connects back to the Vietnam class. I think part of the reason that the Vietnam class was so popular and was featured in *60 Minutes* is because it wasn't just people having conversations. It was really rooted in the humanities, in a deep knowledge of history, of moral questions, of ethics, of religion. And so the conversations were some of the most meaningful conversations because of that. And so I think what Walter was able to do with the humanities was really democratize them.

NARRATOR: Inspired by Jefferson and de Tocqueville, Walter often said, "Democracy is born in conversation."

WALTER CAPPS: I think this is the way democracy grows. Democracy is born in conversation.

NARRATOR: This principle ran through his veins, and was evident in everything he did. His teaching centered on the voices of others, placing them in conversations with students and with other speakers about important issues of the day. His research had also turned toward contemporary political concerns. To many who knew him well, it seemed like a natural progression in the arc of his life to expand on everything he had learned, contributed, and accomplished by entering public service.

In 1993, Walter began discussing running for the U.S. House of Representatives. He had been interested in public policy all of his life, and had learned as a teacher that he could bring people together. His friend, U.S. Senator Bob Kerrey, and others encouraged him to run. Others said it was unlikely that a 60-year-old professor who had never run for public office could win a district that hadn't sent a Democrat to Congress since the New Deal.

LOIS CAPPS: He came home one evening, around the dinner table, and said, "I'm going to run for Congress." And I thought to myself, this is going to be very interesting, and I'd like to be a part of it too. And so I was by his side. We campaigned together.

LAURA CAPPS: I worked on his campaigns fresh out of college.

I wouldn't say I brought a lot of experience to the job, but I got an interest in politics early on. And so we were really in sync when it came to his political interests and his desire to run. I couldn't have been more excited.

KATYA ARMISTEAD: I was a student when he was teaching his courses, and then he decided to run for public office. And getting to see what that looks like through a professor's eyes, and seeing the campaign trail and going to rallies for him and hearing his inspirational talks.

ALESSANDRO DURANTI: He would talk about the ivory tower. He would talk about the value of education or the value of the university, and how that can inform the political process, and vice versa, of course. He would try to have an impact on people, try to affect legislation, for example, bringing politicians into the classroom. He had not only the vision, but the ability to pull it off.

TIM KRING: It just made so much sense. I mean, it was sort of unexpected, like, oh, really? This bumbling kind of professor that I had is going to run for Congress? But it made real sense when you thought about the arc of his own life.

NARRATOR: Walter ran for Congress in 1994 as a Democrat. He campaigned on restoring honesty and belief in American democracy.

WALTER CAPPS: Hello, I'm Walter Capps. My wife, Lois, and I have lived in Santa Barbara for over 30 years. We love this area. We've raised our family here. I'm running for Congress because we need a representative from the Central Coast who we can believe in. The News-Press has endorsed me over an opponent who has described herself as a political junkie and a 30-year member of the pro-life movement. Don't let politics replace democracy in America. Vote for a representative, not a politician.

NARRATOR: Walter supported a stronger social safety net, environmental protections, and greater U.S. involvement in resolving global conflicts and providing humanitarian aid. Unlike his conservative Republican opponent, Andrea Seastrand, Walter supported abortion rights, gun regulation, and campaign finance reform. Among his supporters were Senior Advisor to the President George Stephanopoulos, White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Henry Cisneros.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Given the landslide victory for Republicans in the 1994 elections, it is remarkable that Walter lost his race by less than 1%.

LAURA CAPPS: I was 22 when he lost his first election. To see someone who had previously, up until then, in my estimation, succeeded at everything, and then to see him lose something has helped me tremendously. I mean, certainly that was hard. But he went on, and that has been really instructive to me.

NARRATOR: Walter didn't give up, and he decided to run again in 1996. Tragically, that May, in the midst of his campaign, he and Lois were nearly killed in a head-on car crash caused by a drunk driver on a mountain road.

LOIS CAPPS: He was out of commission for a few weeks.

LAURA CAPPS: It was a little touch and go there for a while. They moved him out of ICU and then back. So it was, obviously, a stressful time, and so shocking that they were victims of drunk driving.

LOIS CAPPS: We carried on, the family, as best we could. And when there was a campaign event, I had the microphone in my hand, all of a sudden.

LAURA CAPPS: Then again, he rebounded, and the history of my mom kind of stepping into the campaign and all that foreshadowed later in life.

NARRATOR: Miraculously, they both survived, and after several months recovering, Walter was back to campaigning. Walter helped register thousands of Santa Barbara students to vote, and his campaign gained momentum. Walter spoke at the Democratic National Convention.

WALTER CAPPS: We Americans have come to this great land from all over the world. We really have no common history, no common ethnicity, no common ancestry, no common language, not even a common religion. But we do have a common creed that was enunciated so eloquently by Abraham Lincoln at Gettysburg that all men, that is, all citizens are created equal.

NARRATOR: Celebrities and politicians came out to support Walter Capps for Congress.

[THEME MUSIC]

A benefit concert featuring musicians Jackson Browne, Bonnie Raitt, and Don Henley drew more than 3,700 people. Local residents Michael Douglas, Jeff Bridges, and Kenny Loggins also hosted fundraisers. Through his daughter Laura, then a White House speechwriter, Walter also won attention from national Democrats, including campaign visits from First Lady Hillary Clinton and President Bill Clinton, who held a large rally in Santa Barbara four days before the election.

WALTER CAPPS: We need to be true to the deeper life of God within each one of us. We must find the higher ground by rediscovering the common ground, where we know that love can conquer evil, that hope can conquer despair, that our ideals can conquer our fears, and where democracy is no longer captive to politics.

[APPLAUSE]

BILL CLINTON: Walter Capps is a good man, a brave man. He shares your values. He shares your dreams. I hope you'll send him back to Congress.

[APPLAUSE]

LOU CANNON: I covered several political conventions, and he made a great impression on me. He was what you like to think of a congressman to be.

NARRATOR: With the help of Lois and his family, who continued his campaign throughout his recovery, Walter handily won the election against incumbent Republican Andrea Seastrand and began serving in January 1997 as a Democratic member of the United States House of Representatives, representing California's 22nd congressional district.

RALPH LEWIN: It was strange to have a religious studies professor run for Congress and eventually win, right? How odd?

BOB KERREY: I wasn't shocked that he ran, and I wasn't shocked that he ran again after he lost the first time, and I wasn't shocked that he endured the second campaign after almost dying in an automobile accident. None of those-- They moved me. I was impressed by them, but I wasn't surprised. And he lived his values.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

LAURA CAPPS: Well, I was working in the White House, and my dad had just been sworn in as a member of Congress, and my mom was there, and I had worked on the State of the Union speech that President Clinton gave as a speechwriter. And once I did my job of getting it into the teleprompter, then I was able to join my dad on the floor of the House. And my mom was up in the gallery. And just the whole synergy of all of what we were doing. It was a magical day and a magical thing to share with one another. And he knew it. We all knew how incredibly special that experience was.

[APPLAUSE]

BILL CLINTON: I come before you tonight with a challenge as great as any in our peacetime history, and a plan of action to meet that challenge. To prepare our people for the bold new world of the 21st century.

NARRATOR: After Clinton's 1997 State of the Union address, Walter was asked for his reaction.

REPORTER: What was the feeling in the chamber as a freshman member?

WALTER CAPPS: Well, of course, I was sitting with the-- I'm one of the older freshmen, and it's fun after having been a professor and all that, being a freshman again. I thought there was a lot of enthusiasm there. I mean, across the aisle, throughout the chamber. And I think the stress on education, in making it possible for every child, every person, to have at least two years of college. I thought there was even an emphasis there on adult education. I liked it very much. I also liked the high moral ground, where he went for not just bipartisan but nonpartisan. Getting beyond partisan bickering and that kind of thing. So I felt rejuvenated by it.

NARRATOR: Walter's first speeches on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives focused on education.

WALTER CAPPS: Truly, the strength of our country is dependent on the way we engage education and the way we give responsible cultivation and stewardship to the arts and the humanities. I think that our vitality as a democratic society, as a learning society, is dependent upon the respect we exhibit for our cultural arts, our literature, our historic records, and the other products of the creative spirit.

NARRATOR: And he defended the National Endowment for the Humanities.

WALTER CAPPS: My first exposure to Congress was when I chaired the California Council for the Humanities, and was national President of the Federation of State Humanities Councils. I think I'm here because of the background that I've had with the humanities. I have profound respect for the work that has gone on under the sponsorship of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

NARRATOR: The first bill Walter introduced sought to increase funding to find a cure for ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. He also co-sponsored bills to support farmers, winemakers, and environmental protection, increased funding for scientific research and education, stronger regulation of firearms, and a closer relationship with Vietnam. He successfully amended a bill to prioritize preserving Tibetan language, culture, and religion through educational and cultural exchanges.

WALTER CAPPS: My own dedication to the study of religion is born of the belief that the cultural and spiritual life of the world benefits immeasurably from the diversity of the world's religious traditions. Furthermore, the richness of the Tibetan culture, in my judgment, benefits all of humanity. It enriches the human spirit.

NARRATOR: Tragically, on October 28, 1997, after serving for just 10 months, Walter Capps died of a heart attack at Dulles International Airport while en route from Santa Barbara to Washington for a vote.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

LOIS CAPPS: It was sudden, so sudden. There's an element of shock, which is, I suppose, protective in a way. I was happy that I could be with my daughter. I was at the airport with him when he died, and in the ambulance to the hospital where they tried to revive him but weren't able.

LAURA CAPPS: I was in a meeting in the White House, and we had pagers back then, and my pager started going off because my dad's then-Chief of Staff, Jeremy Rabinovitz, who became my mom's chief of staff, was trying to get a hold of me. So I went back into my office and I got Jeremy on the line, and he was the one who told me.

LOIS CAPPS: The next day in Congress, they stopped the proceedings, and they devoted the day to remembering him, even though he had only been there a few months. Laura and I flew with his body in a military aircraft, and lo and behold, when we landed the plane, there was Chancellor Yang, and others as well, who had come down to pay respects at the landing.

HENRY T. YANG: That night, I will never forget. A group of our students and his family members and I waited for his arrival until well after midnight. He flew back a big C-5, a giant military airplane. He was wrapped with an American flag.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

ANCHOR: Within the past hour, a plane carrying 30 members of Congress from Washington, D.C., arrived at the Santa Barbara airport. They've traveled by bus now to the Mission to join the Capps family members, friends, and the public to pay their respects. The service is expected to run approximately 90 minutes in length.

VIRGIL CORDANO: Welcome to a prayerful celebration in gratitude for the life of Walter Holden Capps.

JESSE JACKSON: During this period of solemn celebration, and the solemn is the painful transition with little apparent warning, the celebration is that of a tall timber in the forest of humanity. We can all today, for the joy of his life, give your expression of thanks to Walter with a great, tremendous round of applause. Express yourselves.

[APPLAUSE]

BOB KERREY: He was one of them, one of the high priests and professors with knowledge. And he was one of us, one of the people who suffer and weep and laugh our way through our existence. He could walk in our shoes and remind us where our shoes were taking us.

LAURA CAPPS: For Walter Holden Capps, every single interaction was one of special meaning. Whether lecturing in Campbell Hall, chatting in the checkout line at Ross for Less, filling the Santa Barbara rehabilitation center with his piano music, teaching in the halls of Congress, or greeting folks at the Lompoc farmers market, my father made sure that everyone he spoke to he connected with. This was natural for him. It was his way, and it was his magic.

LISA CAPPS: One of his favorites, whose spirit he possessed, was the father of the Danish folk school movement, Nikolaj Grundtvig, known as "The Happy Dane." He introduced many of us to Grundtvig appropriately, while eating meatballs and pastry and listening to sweet music. Rather than seeing life as a preparation for eternity, Grundtvig believed that man's entire earthly life was a God-given gift with value in itself. My dad showed us that.

JIM QUAY: After Walter died, there was this memorial service at the Santa Barbara Mission, which I went to. This is the poem that I read. It's called "I and Thou." Walter, it's me, Jim. I wish I could hear you say, "Hey, Jim," the way you always did. Walt, so many of us wish we could hear you again. It's the dark time of the year, and we miss that glow that always surrounded you.

You'd walk into a room and everyone was just glad to see you. You didn't have to say a word. That would be honor enough, to shine the way you did. Make people a little better by your very presence. But you did more. You took your light into the dark places. Places we wanted to forget. Hiding places for the people we wanted to forget. And the war we wanted to forget. Places that reeked of death and anger and deep despair.

You brought a lot of people back with you. Students wondering what their books were for. Veterans wondering why they were still alive. AIDS victims wondering what their dying could possibly mean. You heard the voices of the stranger, Walt, and you made it possible for us to hear them, and showed us that there are no strangers, only neighbors. Neighbors we hear or choose not to hear.

You shared your lectern with so many of us and gave us a chance to find our voices. And now, we are suddenly all the voice you have. And today, you have made us neighbors again. And we are here, broken open, moist, grieving for you and the loss of your good heart and your good soul.

Many years ago in my job interview, remember, you asked me, "Do you have any heroes?" How like you that question is. Open, inviting, quietly powerful.

I ask it in all my interviews now, and think of you. That day, I answered, Martin Buber. I haven't been asked since, but Walter, if I am ever asked again if I have any heroes, I'll answer, Walter Capps. You, Walter. You.

NARRATOR: Two weeks later, there was a memorial service for Walter on Capitol Hill.

BILL CLINTON: The things I taught him were superficial things. The things that he taught us were deep and enduring things. He believed in his party, but principles were more important. He liked victory, but values were more important. And he knew that the mind was a wonderful thing, but the heart was more important. I can only tell you that, for me, perhaps the most important thing was that whenever I saw him, he made me prouder to be in public service.

NARRATOR: Several months after Walter's death, a special election was held to fill his seat. Newly widowed, but aligned with Walter's political objectives and proficient at the art of campaigning, Lois Capps jumped into the race and defeated Republican Tom Bordonaro. Lois Capps became the first Democrat to represent Santa Barbara for more than one term in over 50 years. A champion for health care, education, and environmental issues, she went on to serve eight more terms. Walter and Lois' legacy of public service continues to inspire others.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Walter's colleagues, former students, and members of the Santa Barbara community were also inspired to create a center at UCSB to memorialize his life and legacy. Over several years, they raised funds from the University of California, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the U.S. Congress, and private donors. The Walter H. Capps Center for the Study of Ethics, Religion, and Public Life was established in 2002. Wade Clark Roof, a professor and chair of Religious Studies who was instrumental in creating the center, served as its founding director.

GREG JOHNSON: Walter Capps made a major impression in Congress in his short term there, and I think so much so that various folks in the federal level of government said, how do we better support humanities along the lines that Walter Capps imagined? Because he was on to something. I think he really persuaded people of that. So an initial gift was made to the university at that time through congressional sources to help launch the initiative.

NARRATOR: The Capps Center promotes discussion of how ethical teachings and values relate to civic life at the local, national, and global levels. It sponsors a diverse set of programs and activities at UCSB and in the Santa Barbara community, including public lectures and conversations, courses on ethics and civic engagement, a service-learning internship program, and a graduate fellowship program.

Through public humanities programs,

the Capps Center connects the university and the community. The Capps Center carries forward Walter's belief that public dialogue and an informed, engaged citizenry are vital to democratic society.

GREG JOHNSON: Wade Clark Roof, a professor of Religious Studies, was its founding director. And so he really launched it then, with the goodwill of the family and their networks,

to stage these important conversations about ethics, religion, and public life.

DAVID MARSHALL: An important part of the programming is public programming, where prominent speakers are brought to campus but also to the community. At the same time, there's been some curriculum developed, courses that would be at that intersection between a liberal arts education and concerns about ethics. We also have received a gift to support internships. Santa Barbara has an unusual number of nonprofits.

NARRATOR: The Sara Miller McCune Endowed Internship and Public Service Program is a year-long program that brings students and community partners together. It provides students with opportunities to connect their classroom learning with community service and real-world experience. Local organizations benefit from the support of energetic, talented students who help them meet their goals and fulfill their missions more effectively.

NONIE HAMILTON: Each year, we have 10 UCSB undergraduates who participate in a year-long program with our Center. They take courses with us, they write research papers, but most importantly, they work in a nonprofit in our local community in Santa Barbara and Goleta. And they are learning themselves to become public service leaders and also contributing to the missions of the organizations to improve our local community.

LAUREN TRUJILLO: I was accepted into the program and paired with the Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation. The first quarter, we were in the classroom studying the nonprofit sector, and we had various executive directors in the community come and speak. We learned about the different components of how a nonprofit works, and we got to learn a little bit more about Walter Capps. We were able to have lunch with Todd Capps, his son, Lois Capps, his wife, and Laura Capps,

and so they were kind of mentors as we went through the program. It was eye-opening to see how committed this family was to doing more for the community, but also the various paths to approaching this work.

HAZEL NAFTZGER: I was matched up with the Santa Barbara Foundation. My relationship with my mentor was just incredible. She was so supportive. She was great at loaning me out to other people in the department when I wanted to work with them. Everyone at the Foundation, now that I'm working full time, has been super friendly and helpful in helping me learn everything.

LAURA CAPPS: What I love about the approach is that you have young students who are studying different topics, students who are studying ethics or religious studies or in the humanities, going and working and getting practical experience in a health clinic or a political office or some sort of nonprofit, who then might spend some time in their legislator's office.

LAUREN TRUJILLO: So, from the classroom we then went into the field for the next two quarters of the school year and worked in our internship. After my internship and after various other experiences at museums, I pursued my master's in library and information sciences at UCLA, and out of library school, I was hired as the Foundation Director for the Santa Barbara Public Library. And it's been an incredible journey starting a nonprofit from the ground up, basically.

And I credit so much of my success, and the pieces of knowledge that I was able to bring to this position, to my work with the Capps Center and to the Sara Miller McCune Internship Program.

NARRATOR: The Steve and Barbara Mendell Graduate Fellowship in Cultural Literacy provides research funds and mentorship for outstanding graduate students at UCSB, whose research or programs of study advance the goals of broad-based cultural literacy and high ethical standards in our participative democracy.

ADDIE JENSEN: The funds from the fellowship allowed me to take a research trip to Washington, D.C., where I visited the Library of Congress. And that trip enabled me to really dig into sources that I've leaned on very heavily in several chapters of my dissertation, which, one day, I hope I will be able to turn into a book.

The biggest thing that I would say I gained from the program was mentorship at a pivotal moment in my academic career. So during the year that I was a Mendell fellow, I was also preparing for my first attempt at the job market, and I really didn't know anything about the various job market materials that I needed to compile.

So the teaching portfolio, the diversity statement, the cover letter, et cetera. I was also very anxious about the last stage of the interview, the campus visit. And apart from helping me secure a tenure track job, I really can't overstate how instrumental this fellowship was to my success on the job market and my academic career.

NARRATOR: The Capps Center also sponsors undergraduate courses in environmental, biomedical, and business ethics, as well as courses in public service and civic engagement.

GREG JOHNSON: The legacy of Walter Capps has been unfolding for some good time now. He passed some decades ago, and yet his name is still so well-known in the community. When one stages an event in his name, people come out and want to hear, and they have a certain expectation for how that will be staged, that it won't be rigidly partisan, that it will be open-ended in a way that attempts to enfranchise different positions, and so forth.

We at the Capps Center absolutely wish to build on that. It seems maybe so obvious, and yet in many ways, it's a lost art to have such conversations. He would have opened the doors in any number of ways to folks who normally aren't enfranchised in such conversations. I know there's a university will to do that. I think the community has a will to do that, and certainly, we at the Center want to honor his legacy through pushing hard for the kinds of conversations he would have staged.

NONIE HAMILTON: I think Walter would be really proud of this program. I think that he would have loved to meet these students and to know them. I feel really proud to be a part of a program that I think really exemplifies what he was doing himself, which was really not just connecting the university to the community, but also doing that in a way that was really grounded in public service.

LAUREN TRUJILLO: It's incredible that Walter Capps could envision the next generation participating in the way that he himself practiced. That he saw this cross-sector opportunity of working with academia, with nonprofits, with government to shift and make change in the world. And that's definitely something I got through the program, but it's definitely something that I see in the larger Capps family, and it's something that I think he valued and was able to inspire through this lasting legacy and program that is the Capps Center.

LOIS CAPPS: My words are of appreciation to the Capps Center, and to this campus, and to the community for honoring his legacy.

GREG JOHNSON: We had a large celebration of Walter Capps' legacy in November, and to have a critical mass of folks speaking with one another and to the broader public over several days of programming, the palpable sense of energy in the room was magnificent, from my point of view, and catalyzed conversations that are still unfolding months out, and I think will animate our interests on down the road for a good long time.

[THEME MUSIC]

RALPH LEWIN: So I would describe the life and legacy of Walter Capps in the people that have been affected by him.

BOB KERREY: Just people who are changed, who see the world differently than they did before, have a capacity to make friends with people that are different than they were, and be able to overcome differences of opinion.

RALPH LEWIN: Every time I encounter someone who attended UCSB during the time that the Vietnam class existed, we have a common bond, and I find that those people are more willing to have brave conversations. And so part of his legacy is really making it okay to have conversations that are brave.

Another legacy is the evolution of how we think about the Vietnam War. I talk with veterans from other wars and their willingness to talk about their experience-- I think you can trace that openness back to something that Walter ignited in our country. That we should, as a country, listen to the stories of people returning from war and think about what it is before we send others off to war that we're asking of them and of ourselves.

RICHARD HECHT: His legacy really is, in terms of his political life, was Lois and the many terms that she was in Congress.

KATYA ARMISTEAD: I didn't know it at the time how much he touched me, until I started pursuing my own professional career and realized that I wanted to make a difference. He taught me how to open my arms to people from different backgrounds, who have had different experiences, and I feel I've led an authentic life pursuing, creating that space for others.

RALPH LEWIN: Now, as a father to two boys, I look back at the way that Walter seemed to balance this really intense professional life with how he valued his family life. That was something that really stayed with me.

SARAH MCFARLAND TAYLOR: One of the things that I'm trying to impart upon my younger generation of students: that they can make a difference, that they can make positive change in this world. And that really comes from Walter.

TIM KRING: The spiritual concepts, especially this concept of hope as a tool or as almost a weapon for creating positive change in the world. That was something that has moved through my creative life, and I've been able to explore those themes myself in the writing that I've done. And so I can draw that line in my mind from what I am creating and putting out into the world, in my own life, and draw that line all the way back to the classes that I took from Walter.

SHAWN LANDRES: I think what's so unusual about Walter is just how broad his legacy is. Because when you think about someone who is as influential as he was in the study of religion, you would expect that kind of person to have an intellectual legacy. And yet, he was also a community leader and a teacher beyond the university, beyond the academy, through the state humanities councils.

And he was someone who reached across difference to really see people who were unseen, who were seen imperfectly. We are all heirs of part of his legacy, each in our own way, and yet each of us in common with the other. I think it's a gift to Santa Barbara, I think it's a gift to the world.

NARRATOR: Walter Capps' legacy lives on in the history of our nation, and in the field of religious studies, in his contributions to the humanities, in his family's legacy of public service, in the lives of his students, in the Walter H. Capps Center, and in the hearts of the many, many people who were touched by him.

[THEME MUSIC]